THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Some representations have been received in this regard. Increasing the frequency of 2815/2816 New Delhi-Puri Express has been examined but not found feasible on account of operational constraints.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Due to technical difficulties as AC 3-tier coaches are having air brake system whereas Puri Express is running with vacuum brake rakes.

Setting up of Terminal Station at Tala

4159. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps are being taken to set up a Terminal Station at Tala on the circular Railway track to operate EMU service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress of the work in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposal is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Running of Train Via Grand Chord

4160. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to run 2305/2306 via Grand Chord instead of main line;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that demands have been raised from different quarters to run this train via Grand Chord to save foreign exchange (fuel) and increase revenue;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction; and

(d) if not, the justification of running this train via main line after introduction of 2309/2310?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) 2309/2310 Rajdhani Express provides bi-weekly service between New Delhi and Patna via Lucknow and Varanasi.

[Translation]

Airstrips at Chakarbhata Airport in M.P.

4161. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop airstrips at the Chakarbhata airport of Bilaspur district in Madhya Pradesh to facilitate operation of flights;

(b) whether the Government also propose to equip it with full facilities;

(c) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon alongwith the details thereof;

(d) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded in this regard and the airstrip is proposed to be developed;

(e) whether some private companies had sent proposals to undertake operation of flights from the said airport;

(f) whether the said private companies were operating their flights from the said airport earlier; and

(g) if so, the reasons for discontinuation of flights at the said airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The existing airstrip at Bilaspur airport is suitable for 50 seater aircraft. There is no proposal to upgrade this airstrip due to lack of traffic potential.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

[English]

Funds for Construction of Road Over Bridge at Rayagada

4162. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds provided by the Union Government and the Government of Orissa for construction of Road over-bridge at Rayagada town under South Eastern Railway so far, year-wise;

(b) whether the construction of the over-bridge has been completed but the road portion of the bridge is yet to be completed;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in opening the bridge for traffic; and

(d) the alternative a arrangement made by the Railway authorities for movement of general public by feet, rickshaw and cycles while replacing existing level crossing thereof?